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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-21 are pending, claims 22-44 have been withdrawn from the application, and that claims 1-21 are rejected. By this supplemental response, claim 1 has been amended, and claims 2-22 continue unamended. In view of the following discussion, Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102. Thus, Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in condition for allowance.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for interviewing with the Applicants' attorney, Steven M. Hertzberg, on Thursday, 17, 2003 and Monday, June 21, 2003 regarding the non-final Office Action (mailed February 21, 2003) and corresponding response thereto. This Supplementary response addresses the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102. During the interview, the Examiner and the Applicants' attorney agreed that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection in view of the Shamouilian reference is improper, since this patent application was filed on or after November 29, 1999. It is noted that the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection has already been addressed in the previous response.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8, 10-11, 14, 16, 18 and 21 as being anticipated by Shamouilian et al. (United States patent 6,151,203, issued November 21, 2000). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites:

"An electrical coupler, comprising:
an inner connector element having opposing ends;
an upper end connector and an lower end connector; each end connector respectively coupled to one of said opposing ends of said inner connector element;
a thermally conductive flange coupled to and circumscribing said inner connector; and
an outer connector element disposed over said inner connector and said thermally conductive flange." (emphasis added).

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"Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim" (Lindenmann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (citing Connell v. Sears Roebuck & Company, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added)). The Shamouilian reference fails to disclose each and every element of the claimed invention, as arranged in the claim.

In particular, the Shamouilian reference discloses a thermally conductive ring 202 surrounded or embedded in a portion of the silicone second connector element 238. The thermally conductive ring 202 is provided with a plurality of holes or bores 202a, 202b, 202c for having threaded bolts extended therethrough, and for mechanically mounting the connector member 232 to the cooling plate 167. It will be understood that the metal ring 202, through the bolts residing in bores 202a-202c, mount the connector member 232 mechanically securely to the cooling plate 167, but since the metal ring 202 is surrounded by or embedded in a portion of the outer resilient silicone connector element 238, the resilient silicone connector element 238 is sufficiently deformable or resilient to permit sufficient relative movement between the connector member 232 and the cooling plate to facilitate insertion of the male connector member 189 (see Shamouilian, Col. 13, lines 6-35, FIGS. 5, 7, 7A, and 9). Nowhere in the Shamouilian reference is there any teaching of "a thermally conductive flange coupled to and circumscribing the inner connector."

Referring to Fig. 2 of the Applicants' invention, a thermally conductive flange 202 is coupled to (e.g., brazed) and circumscribes the electrically conductive inner connector elements 232. That is, the thermally conductive flange of the applicants' invention is coupled to the inner connector, as also shown in FIGS. 3A and 3B, and claimed in amended claim 1 of the Applicants' invention. By contrast, the Shamouilian reference discloses that the thermally conductive flange is embedded in the silicone connector element. Therefore, the Shamouilian reference fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention as arranged in the claim, since there is no teaching, or

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even suggestion, of "a thermally conductive flange coupled to and circumscribing the inner connector".

As such, the Applicants submit that independent claim 1 fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder. Furthermore, claims 2, 3, 8, 10-11, 14, 16, 18 and 21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1 and recite additional features thereof. As such, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that these dependent claims are not anticipated from the teachings of the reference and fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

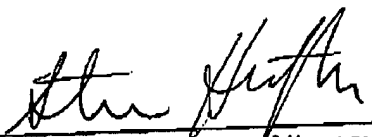
Thus, Applicants submit that none of the claims presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Consequently, Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Steven M. Hertzberg, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

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Respectfully submitted,

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